

Message Text

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P 262151Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 264037

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CFED, AU

SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE

1. SENATOR JOHNSON (D-LA) HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT ASSIST-
ANCE IN FOLLOWING MATTER.
2. GROUP OF 35 CONSTITUENTS FROM NEW ORLEANS IS PLANNING
TRIP TO ISRAEL, AND WISH TRANSIT VIENNA NOVEMBER 14-15 FOR
PURPOSE OF VISITING MUSEUM AT FORMER KZ MAUTHAUSEN. GROUP
UNDERSTANDS THAT MUSEUM IS NORMALLY CLOSED ON MONDAYS, AND
CONTACTED BOTH AUSTRIAN EMBASSY AND AUSTRIAN NATIONAL
TOURIST OFFICE (NEW YORK) TO SEE IF EXCEPTION COULD BE
MADE. RESPONSE FROM VIENNA WAS NEGATIVE.
3. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT AND SENATOR'S OFFICE AWARE OF
AUSTRIAN TURN-DOWN, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONTACTING
EITHER FOREIGN OFFICE AND/OR STATE TOURIST OFFICE AND
INQUIRING IF RECONSIDERATION COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO GROUP'S
REQUEST. GROUP IS PREPARED TO PAY ANY COSTS INCURRED IN
HAVING MUSEUM OPENED TO IT ON A MONDAY.
4. IF EMBASSY'S APPROACH IS ALSO TURNED DOWN, GROUP WILL
SKIP VIENNA PORTION OF TRIP.

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5. IF POSSIBLE, SEND RESPONSE BY YOUR COB THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 28. FYI: DEPARTMENT HAS CAUTIONED SENATOR'S
OFFICE THAT CONVINCING AUSTRIANS TO OPEN MUSEUM WOULD
NOT BE EASY.
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